

#### Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson  
Sen. Richard Young  
Rep. William Friend  
Rep. Scott Pelath



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVALUATION OVERSIGHT POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2008  
**Meeting Time:** 10:30 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., 431  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 1

**Members Present:** Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Rep. William Friend; Rep. Scott Pelath.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Richard Young.

#### Call to Order

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:32 am, and introduced the Subcommittee members. Sen. Lawson called on Ms. Karen Firestone, LSA, to update the Subcommittee on current reports prepared by LSA under the direction of the Subcommittee.

#### LSA Update

Ms. Firestone indicated that an evaluation of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) assigned by the Subcommittee would be published on July 1, 2008. LSA reported interviewing commodity associations and agricultural industry businesses for the evaluation and working well with the ISDA.

Rep. William Friend asked whether ISDA was aware of when the report would be published, and Ms. Firestone indicated that the ISDA will have an opportunity to read the report prior to its publication.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Next, Ms. Firestone discussed work on the Healthy Indiana Program (HIP). She indicated that this report would be a final report for this assigned topic. The Subcommittee had asked LSA to establish measurements and benchmarks for a future evaluation of HIP and to work with Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). LSA reviewed the HIP statute and found the following program objectives:

*Objective One:* To extend quality healthcare coverage for low-income Indiana residents including extending health care coverage in medically underserved areas and obtaining affordable healthcare costs.

*Objective Two:* To achieve and maintain wellness by emphasizing preventative care.

*Objective Three:* To allow for personal empowerment and responsibility for health care.

In addition, LSA found that the overriding policy question was whether the investment in HIP was the best possible alternative use of the funding to provide health benefits for the uninsured.

In addition to information on the program itself, LSA determined that the best evaluation of alternative uses of funding would be information on the pre-HIP health status of participants. However, this information is costly to collect, the collection of the information would have to be uniform, and it would have to be collected in a timely manner.

LSA contacted FSSA and found that they were just beginning to plan their evaluation of HIP for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). FSSA invited LSA to participate on the evaluation planning committee. At the first committee, LSA presented its information request for pre-HIP health status, and found that one plan offered under the HIP program does collect health data on what is known as the short-form. It was thought that the other plan may consider doing a similar form as part of its quality improvement piece. It was pointed out that the health assessments for HIP are voluntary, but FSSA has confirmed that these data will be available to LSA for review. Further, FSSA submitted its evaluation plan to CMS on May 15, 2008, and they are now working on the RFPs for surveys that will be a part of the FSSA evaluation.

Sen. Lawson suggested that the Subcommittee take further action to assure that the future evaluation of HIP not slip through the cracks. A motion was proposed by Rep. Scott Pelath to direct LSA to undertake a review of HIP using the criteria developed, beginning in 2010 with a report in 2011. The motion was adopted unanimously.

### **Other Evaluation Topics**

Sen. Lawson said that if it was the will of the Subcommittee, a resolution concerning evaluations would be brought before the Legislative Council in the afternoon. A draft resolution (Exhibit A) would ratify the September 2007 direction to the LSA to prepare the evaluation of the ISDA and take preliminary measures for the HIP evaluation since the Legislative Council had not met since this assignment was made. In addition, Sen. Lawson wanted the resolution to include an assignment for 2009. She indicated that Sen. Richard Young was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but had sent a letter indicating his support for a study of the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) (Exhibit B). Sen. Lawson indicated her agreement, but wanted to see if there were additional topics for discussion.

Rep. Pelath indicated that he felt there was consensus for looking at the DLGF. Rep. Friend agreed with looking at DLGF, although he said that the Department of Natural Resources

(DNR) was scheduled in statute to be reviewed and suggested that it not be missed. Sen. Lawson said that LSA would not be able to do a review of both DLGF and DNR. Rep. Friend said he was suggesting that it not be forgotten among other agencies.

Sen. Lawson called upon Ms. Diane Powers, LSA, to discuss possible approaches to the evaluation of DLGF. Ms. Powers indicated that the current evaluation process was not all-encompassing as the sunset statute was. She suggested that LSA could provide an overview map of responsibilities and structure of the DLGF, including three main areas - following statutes, best practices comparison to other states, or the communication channels to local units used by the DLGF.

Rep. Pelath said that he would like the evaluation to zero in on whether the DLGF has sufficient staffing and expertise. He said that he represents the last county that will receive rebate checks and that it seems like it is taking too long. He said that problems, like communicating with locals, may result from not enough people inside the agency, and he would like to know how they make the decision to hire people from outside the agency.

Sen. Lawson asked if a best practices comparison would provide information about staffing. Ms. Powers agreed that it would and indicated that the DLGF does hire outside contractors. As an example, the Indiana Business Research Center is writing code for the DLGF's computer system.

Rep. Friend said that he would like the evaluation to focus on cooperation and communication with other agencies, such as the Department of State Revenue. He was concerned about the distribution of county option taxes and the communication between the agencies on that topic. Ms. Powers indicated that it is already being reviewed in another forum.

Discussion continued with Sen. Lawson pointing out that LSA is required to get information from the DLGF, too. Ms. Powers suggested that the Subcommittee request an overview of the DLGF's responsibilities with various subtopics as bullet points. Sen. Lawson called for a motion for DLGF as the 2009 study topic. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to present the Legislative Council with the draft resolution updated for the DLGF study and the review for 2011 of HIP also passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.